

Nebraska's
Adolescent Health Positive Youth Development through
Abstinence Education Grant Program

The Project Description

Application Abstract

The overarching goal statement for Nebraska's **Adolescent Health Positive Youth Development (AHPYD)-Abstinence Education Grant Program (AEGP)** is for Nebraska adolescents to be empowered to live safe, healthy, and successful lives through relationships with caring and supportive adults guiding them to develop healthy behaviors, healthy relationships and life skills.

Nebraska's **AHPYD-AEGP** seeks to address the influences, views and challenges facing our state's youth population through a broad life course framework. Nebraska's **AHPYD-AEGP** programming is a comprehensive prevention strategy grounded in the principles of Positive Youth Development (PYD) that provides youth opportunities to develop critical thinking skills about goal setting, values, communication skills, birth control, STD/STI's, and healthy relationships and behaviors in the context of their lives.

AHPYD-AEGP sites will be dispersed throughout the state. The program will target areas where teen birth and STD/STI rates are high, where Concentrated Disadvantage scores are high, and where disparities in teen birth rates and/or STD/STI rates are documented. Special population target groups are Vulnerable and Disconnected Youth, which include youth at risk of homelessness and youth in foster care.

The selected evidence-based intervention is the abstinence-only Teen Outreach Program® (TOP®). Abstinence-only TOP® can easily be replicated in urban or rural communities and adapted to fit cultural needs without compromising fidelity to the model. The abstinence-only TOP® curriculum helps young people develop healthy relationships, life skills, education and career success, and learn about adolescent development.

Nebraska's **AHPYD-AEGP** initiative will be carried out through sub-awards made to qualified recipients by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health, Lifespan Health Services Unit, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health group. Program oversight will be the responsibility of the state's Adolescent Health Program Manager, Michaela Meismer who will serve as **AHPYD-AEGP** Project Director and identified contact between DHHS and the federal program office in the Administration for Children Youth and Families. The **AHPYD-AEGP** Project Director is responsible for monitoring all sub-awardee abstinence-only TOP® sites via annual site visits required by the abstinence-only TOP® program. Additionally, quarterly attendance, narrative, and financial reporting allow for regular sub-awardee monitoring.